

CLAIMS

1. A method of conducting a survey, comprising:
providing a plurality of questions to respondents, at least some questions being
5 provided to a plurality of the respondents;
collecting answers to the questions from the respondents;
transferring at least some of the answers to respondents other than those who generated
the answers;
collecting responses to the transferred answers, at least some of the responses being
10 qualitative; and
providing a statistical report which is at least partially based on qualitative responses
collected from the respondents.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein collecting the responses comprises collecting
15 from fewer than all the respondents receiving the questions.
3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of respondents comprise at least
30 respondents.
- 20 4. A method according to claim 1, wherein collecting responses to the transferred answers
comprises collecting remarks.
5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the method includes using the statistical report
in providing one or more of the questions.
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6. A method according to claim 1, wherein providing the statistical report comprises
generating the report automatically.
7. A method according to claim 1, wherein providing the questions, collecting the
30 answers and responses and transferring the answers are performed during a time bound survey
session.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the time bound survey session has a duration of less than three hours.

9. A method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the questions is provided after
5 transferring at least some of the answers to respondents other than those who generated the answers.

10. A method according to claim 1, wherein substantially all the questions are provided to substantially all the respondents.

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11. A method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the questions is provided to fewer than all the respondents.

12. A method according to claim 1, wherein the respondents are divided into sub-groups
15 and wherein transferring the answers comprises transferring each answer to respondents in the same sub-group as the respondent generating the answer.

13. A method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the provided questions is generated responsive to the collected responses.

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14. A method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the provided questions is generated responsive to statistics on the answers collected from a plurality of respondents.

15. A method according to claim 14, wherein the at least one question is generated
25 automatically.

16. A method according to claim 1, wherein transferring the answers comprises transferring answers from at least one of the respondents to a group of respondents which changes during the survey for different answers of the respondents.

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17. A method according to claim 16, wherein the group of respondents receiving the answers changes at least partially according to the contents of the answers.

18. A method according to claim 16, wherein the group of respondents receiving the responses changes at least partially according to a question with which the remark is associated.
- 5 19. A system for conducting a survey, comprising:
a plurality of respondent stations adapted to collect statements from respective respondents;
at least one presentation station adapted to provide questions to the respondent stations for display to the respondents;
10 a server adapted to provide statements collected by at least one first respondent station to one or more second respondent stations, at least one of the collected statements being generated responsive to a statement provided by the server; and
a report unit adapted to provide a report of quantitative data summarizing answers provided by the respondents to provided questions.
- 15 20. A system according to claim 19, wherein the respondent stations are adapted to collect each statement with relation to a specific provided question or statement.
21. A system according to claim 19, wherein the server and at least one presentation station
20 are implemented by a single computer.
22. A system according to claim 19, wherein the at least one presentation station is adapted to collect answers to the questions.
- 25 23. A system according to claim 22, wherein at least some of the questions include closed questions.
24. A method of conducting a survey with a plurality of respondents, comprising:
determining a profile of at least one respondent;
30 receiving data to be distributed to at least some of the respondents;
providing at least one requirement on the number or profiles of the respondents to receive the data; and

distributing the data to at least some of the respondents in a manner selected responsive to the profile and the at least one requirement.

25. A method according to claim 24, wherein receiving the data comprises receiving a
5 question.

26. A method according to claim 24, wherein receiving the data comprises receiving a remark or answer from one of the respondents.

10 27. A method according to claim 24, comprising receiving responses from the respondents and wherein receiving the data comprises receiving data generated responsive to the responses from the respondents.

28. A method according to claim 24, wherein determining the profile comprises
15 determining a demographic or geographic characteristic of the respondent.

29. A method according to claim 24, wherein determining the profile comprises determining a social characteristic of the respondent.

20 30. A method according to claim 24, wherein providing the at least one requirement comprises providing a requirement on the number of respondents to receive the data.

31. A method according to claim 24, wherein providing the at least one requirement
25 comprises providing a requirement on the percentage of respondents having a specific characteristic, to receive the data.

32. A method according to claim 24, wherein distributing the data to at least some of the respondents comprises distributing to respondents selected responsive to the profile and the at least one requirement.
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33. A method according to claim 32, wherein distributing the data to at least some of the respondents comprises distributing to respondents selected responsive to the generator of the distributed data.

34. A method according to claim 32, wherein distributing the data to at least some of the respondents comprises distributing to respondents selected responsive to the contents of the distributed data.

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35. A method according to claim 24, wherein distributing the data to at least some of the respondents comprises distributing the data with a timing selected responsive to the profile and the at least one requirement.

10 36. A method according to claim 35, wherein distributing the data with a timing selected responsive to the profile and the at least one requirement comprises distributing answers to a question to at least some of the respondents, after they provide answers to the question.

37. A method of conducting a survey, comprising:
15 receiving data on the timing of the progression of the survey; and
displaying data of the survey to a respondent in a manner selected responsive to the received timing data.

38. A method according to claim 37, wherein the received data on the timing of the
20 progression of the survey comprises receiving data on the time passing from the beginning of the survey or remaining until the end of the survey.

39. A method according to claim 37, wherein displaying data of the survey to the
25 respondents in a manner selected responsive to the received timing data comprises selecting the wording of one or more questions of the survey responsive to the timing data.

40. A method according to claim 39, wherein selecting the wording of one or more
questions of the survey comprises selecting whether to display a closed, open or half closed
question.

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41. A method according to claim 37, comprising preparing a roster of questions to be asked during the survey and wherein displaying data of the survey to the respondents in a manner

selected responsive to the received timing data comprises deterring from the roster of questions responsive to the received timing data.

42. A method according to claim 41, wherein deterring from the roster of questions
5 comprises skipping at least one question in the roster.

43. A method according to claim 41 wherein deterring from the roster of questions
comprises reducing the number of answers in at least one question of the roster.

10 44. A method according to claim 37 wherein displaying data of the survey to the
respondents in a manner selected responsive to the received timing data comprises setting a
time for responding to the displayed data responsive to the timing data.

45. A method according to claim 37, wherein the survey has a plurality of concurrently
15 connected respondents and wherein displaying data of the survey to a respondent in a manner
selected responsive to the received timing data comprises displaying such that all the
respondents are within a same context of the survey.

46. A survey system, comprising:
20 a question provider adapted to provide a question to a plurality of respondents;
an answer input unit adapted to receive answers from the respondents; and
a processor adapted to generate at least one question, responsive to the answers
received from the respondents.

25 47. A system according to claim 46, wherein the processor is adapted to select from a
plurality of answers given to an open question, several answers to be used in a closed question
version of the open question.

48. A system according to claim 46, wherein the answer input unit is adapted to receive
30 from the respondents ratings of the answers, and wherein the processor uses the ratings in
generating the at least one question.

49. A system according to claim 46, wherein the processor is adapted to generate open questions.
50. A system according to claim 49, wherein the processor is adapted to generate an open question which asks for the reason of the statistical distribution of answers to one or more questions.
51. A system according to claim 46, wherein the question provider is adapted to provide at least one question generated by the processor during a same survey session in which the answers used in generating the question were received.
52. A method of conducting a survey, comprising:
providing a question to a plurality of respondents;
receiving answers from at least some of the respondents; and
providing a first respondent with an answer received from at least one second respondent, delayed relative to the time the answer was received.
53. A method according to claim 52, wherein providing the answer received from the at least one second respondent comprises providing the answer from the second respondent only after receiving an answer from the first respondent, although the answer from the second respondent was received before the answer from the first respondent.
54. A method according to claim 52, wherein providing the first respondent with an answer from at least one second respondent comprises providing the first respondent with a plurality of answers.
55. A method according to claim 54, wherein providing the first respondent with an answer from at least one second respondent comprises providing the first respondent with fewer than all the answers received from other respondents.
56. A method according to claim 54, wherein providing the first respondent with an answer from at least one second respondent comprises providing one or more answers which fit one or more filtering requirements.

57. A method of conducting an interactive survey session, comprising:
providing at least one question to a plurality of respondents during the session;
conducting a discussion between at least some of the plurality of respondents during
5 the session; and
providing at least two of the plurality of respondents with different questions,
substantially concurrently during the session.
58. A method according to claim 57, wherein conducting the discussion comprises passing
10 at least one statement generated by one of the respondents to substantially all the other
respondents.
59. A method according to claim 57, wherein providing at least two of the respondents
with different questions comprises providing a first respondent with a question not provided to
15 a second respondent throughout the session.
60. A method according to claim 57, wherein providing at least two of the respondents
with different questions comprises providing a first respondent with a question provided to a
second respondent earlier during the session.
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61. A survey system, comprising:
a plurality of respondent stations adapted to provide questions to respondents; and
at least two control stations adapted to control the provision of data by the respondent
stations.
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62. A system according to claim 61, comprising an arbitration unit adapted to resolve
contradicting instructions received from the at least two control units.
63. A system according to claim 61, wherein a first control station controls a first group of
30 respondent stations and a second control station controls a second group of respondent stations
different from the first group.

64. A system according to claim 63, wherein the first control station controls at least one of the respondent stations of the first group to display data received from a respondent station of the second group.

5 65. A system according to claim 61, wherein the at least two control stations control the data provided to the respondent stations.

66. A system according to claim 61, wherein the at least two control stations control the timing of the display of the respondent stations.

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67. A survey system, comprising:
a display unit adapted to provide questions to a respondent; and
an input interface adapted to receive answers to the questions from the respondent,
wherein the input interface does not accept an answer for at least one of the displayed
15 questions.

68. A survey system according to claim 67, wherein the display unit is adapted to provide the respondent with answers to the question for which the input interface does not accept answers.

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69. A survey system according to claim 68, wherein the input interface is adapted to accept responses to the question for which the input interface does not accept answers, from the respondent.

25 70. A method of conducting an interactive survey session, comprising:
providing, during a survey session, a first question to a first group of a plurality of respondents;

collecting answers to the first question;

statistically analyzing the collected answers to the first question;

30 providing, during the survey session, a second question on the reasons to the statistical distribution of the collected answers to the first question, to a plurality of respondents;

collecting answers to the second question; and

providing a statistical tabulation of the answers to the second question.

71. A method according to claim 70, wherein the second question comprises an open question.

5 72. A method according to claim 70, wherein the second question comprises a request to rate one or more given explanations to the statistics of answers of the first question.

73. A method of conducting a survey, comprising:
setting a survey goal;
10 providing a plurality of questions to respondents;
collecting answers to the questions from the respondents;
transferring at least some of the answers to respondents other than those who generated the answers;
comparing a current state of the survey to the goal; and
15 controlling the transferring of the answers responsive to the comparison.

74. A method according to claim 73, wherein controlling the transferring of the answers comprises determining a number of respondents to receive an answer.

20 75. A method according to claim 73, wherein transferring at least some of the answers comprises transferring to fewer than all the respondents.

76. A survey system, comprising:
a memory for storing a survey goal;
25 a data provider for providing data to respondents;
an input unit adapted to receive input from the respondents, responsive to the provided data; and
a processor adapted to analyze the input from the respondents in order to determine a survey state, to compare the survey state to the survey goal and to control the providing of data
30 to the respondents responsive to the comparison.

77. The system of claim 76, wherein the data provider is adapted to provide questions to the respondents.

78. The system of claim 77, wherein the processor is adapted to control the number of questions provided to the respondents responsive to the comparison.

5 79. The system of claim 77, wherein the processor is adapted to determine when to terminate the survey responsive to the comparison.

80. The system of claim 76, wherein the data provider is adapted to transfer input received from respondents to other respondents that did not provide the input.

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81. The system of claim 80, wherein the data provider is adapted to transfer at least some of the input received from respondents to fewer than all the other respondents that did not provide the input.

15 82. The system of claim 80, wherein the processor is adapted to control the number or identity of respondents to which the input is transferred, responsive to the comparison.

83. The system of claim 76, wherein the input unit is adapted to receive from the respondents answers to questions.

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84. The system of claim 76, wherein the processor is adapted to determine a binary value as to whether the goal was achieved responsive to the comparison.

25 85. The system of claim 76, wherein the processor is adapted to determine an extent to which the survey state is distanced from the goal responsive to the comparison.

86. The system of claim 76, wherein the input unit is adapted to receive remarks from the respondents.

30 87. The system of claim 76, wherein the input unit is adapted to receive answers from the respondents.